

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5001

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, ELAB, GH
SUBJ: ACHEAMPONG HAS CORDIAL MEETING WITH TUC DELEGATION:
TUC SEC GEN ISSIFU'S APPOINTMENT REVOKED

REF: (A) ACCRA 4934, (B) ACCRA 4955

1. SUMMARY: ACHEAMPONG HAS REVOKED CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT OF TUC SEC GEN ISSIFU AS HIS SPECIAL ADVISOR AND MADE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE TO PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO MET WITH CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN DELEGATIONS BUT OUTCOME IS UNKNOWN. GOVERNMENT-OWNED PRESS IS GIVING EDITORIAL EMPHASIS TO "CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS" OF PROFESSIONALS WHO THREATEN STRIKES TO BRING DOWN GOVERNMENT WHILE WORKERS REMAIN LOYAL. END SUMMARY
2. HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG TOLD A TRADE UNION CONGRESS (TUC) DELEGATION JUNE 28 THAT HE WAS REVOKING
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APPOINTMENT OF TUC SECRETARY-GENERAL A.M. ISSIFU AS SPECIAL ADVISOR (ACCRA 4524) BECAUSE "IT HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY MISINTERPRETED BY THE ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION." ISSIFU REPORTEDLY REPLIED BY EMPHASIZING CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORKERS AND GOG AND THANKING SMC FOR ITS SINCERITY AND "APPROACHABILITY."

3. DURING SAME MEETING ACHEAMPONG MADE FIRST OPEN REFERENCE TO PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, STATING "I CAN GO TODAY AND THE SMC GOVERNMENT CAN GO BUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE NATION WILL STILL REMAIN UNLESS THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE CHANGE FROM THEIR GREED, AVARICE AND OTHER SOCIAL EVILS THAT AFFLICT US." HE AGAIN MADE PLEA FOR UNION GOVERNMENT AS MOST EFFECTIVE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY.

4. ON SAME DAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, ACHEAMPONG MET WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANOE FISHERMEN TO DISCUSS THEIR NEED FOR OUTBOARD MOTORS, AND WITH A JOINT DELEGATION OF THE CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT AND THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL. CONTENT OF LATTER MEETING WAS UNDISCLOSED, ALTHOUGH SMILING HANDSHAKE PHOTO WAS FRONTPAGED BY GOVT-OWNED THANAIAN TIMES.

5. COMMENT: ACTION ON SPECIAL ADVISOR APPOINTMENT OF ISSIFU INDICATES THAT AS ANTICIPATED (REF B), ISSIFU HAS FOUND FORMULA FOR DUCKING THE UNWELCOME APPOINTMENT MADE WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE AND WHILE HE WAS OUT OF COUNTRY. HOW CORDIAL HIS RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE WITH SMC REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HOWEVER, TUC-AFFILIATED UNIONS CONTINUE TO RESIST PROPOSALS THAT THEY JOIN IN THE VARIOUS STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL STRIKES AIMED AT BRINGING DOWN SMC GOVERNMENT.
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6. REPORT OF CHRISTIAN COUNCIL/CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT MEETING WITH ACHEAMPONG IS INTRIGUING AS BOTH HAVE ISSUED ANTI-SMC STATEMENTS (ACCRA 4785). AND CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP AMISSAH, WHO RECEIVED SURPRISE "SPECIAL ADVISOR" APPOINTMENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF ISSIFU, HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO STRONG PRESSURES TO REJECT IT. HIS DECISION IS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF APPOINTMENT STICKS.

7. REFUSAL OF UNIONS THUS FAR TO JOIN IN POLITICAL STRIKES IS BEING PLAYED FOR ALL IT IS WORTH BY SMC TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT AND TO DRIVE WEDGES BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF POPULATION. ACCORDING TO TIMES ACCOUNT, ACHEAMPONG CONGRATULATED TUC AT MEETING FOR "REFUSING TO ALLOW THE WORKERS TO BE USED TO ADVANCE THE SELFISH MOVES OF SOME DISGRUNTLED PEOPLE." TIMES THEN PURSUED THEME FURTHER IN STRONG EDITORIAL WITH OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO UNPUBLICIZED MANIFESTO OF ASSOCIATION OF GHANAIAI PROFESSIONALS (REF A). TIMES CONTRASTED ACTIONS OF THE TWO GROUPS, SUGGESTING THAT "IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN WHAT APPEARS

TO BE A CONSCIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC REVIVAL OF CLASS
CONSCIOUSNESS BY PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT HAVING
ACQUIRED A PROFESSION MAKES THEM DIFFERENT FROM
OR BETTER SPECIES OF GHANAIANS". THESIS WAS THAT
BY PROPOSING TO STRIKE WHEN ORDINARY WORKERS ARE
STILL WORKING, THE PROFESSIONAL IS USING "THE
SERVICES OF OTHER CLASSES IN THE SOCIETY WHILE HE
WITHDRAWS HIS OWN SERVICES--ESPECIALLY FOR
REASONS THAT ARE PURELY SELFISH AND CALCULATED TO
ASSERT HIS "SUPERIOR" IMAGE".
SMITH

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